

STATE OF COLORADO

GOVERNOR'S JOBS CABINET

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July 23, 2008

The rise of globalization in the 21st century has created an entirely new marketplace for talented individuals – one where Colorado not only competes with Massachusetts and California, but with India and Japan as well. In order for Colorado to compete nationally and internationally, we need to create a sustainable workforce for this state – and to do that, we must align the goals of our business community with the goals of our education and workforce communities.

One of the strengths of this state is our diversity – we cannot find a one-sized fits all solution that will benefit the people of this state. Each region in this state has its own needs and interests, strengths and weaknesses, challenges and opportunities. To address this issue, the Jobs Cabinet has been split into five subcommittees by economic region: the Eastern Plains, Western Slope, Mountain Resorts, San Luis Valley and the Front Range. As part of the first phase of its work, the Jobs Cabinet has been holding community outreach meetings in these regions over the past two months.

Each community outreach meeting includes representatives from higher education, K-12, workforce, local business and economic development. During these meeting, the group is asked to identify their long-term goals for the Jobs Cabinet, as well as potential issues, demographics and industries in their regions. The matrix below summarizes the group's discussion and goals for this particular session.

Thank you for taking the time to visit our website.

Sincerely,

The Jobs Cabinet Co-Chairs

Jim Lyons

Teresa Taylor

Ruth Ann Woods

WESTERN SLOPE REGIONAL OUTREACH MEETING GOALS
Grand Junction, Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Alignment/Partnerships	Training	Infrastructure	Funding
Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success
Skill sets are defined in line with current and incoming industry	K-12 Education has an increased focus on work preparedness	Affordable infrastructure in place or in progress	Support/funding to create housing and infrastructure to support workers
A more diverse economy and industry	A highly developed training/mentoring program that utilizes retirees	Greater access to broadband technology and the information highway	Better financed workforce training
Cost of living and wage structure are properly aligned	A culture of continued education and growth	Stronger base of creative thinkers to do R&D that now takes place elsewhere	
Ability to adjust training programs to the needs of the community	Tools for employers to help create better training modules that in turn leads to better paying jobs		
Remove the ‘shackles’ on education system so it can react quickly and nimbly to local/regional needs	An available and ready workforce that includes basic STEM and soft skills		
Education (K-12, higher ed) aware of business needs	Retraining programs based around the energy industry		
Collaborations in place and operating between government, employers, education, workforce and economic development entities	Stronger Vocational School System		

ISSUES, DEMOGRAPHICS, INDUSTRIES, AND STRENGTHS
Grand Junction, Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Targeted Demographics or Populations	New Partnerships that should be created	Regional Strengths	Regional Economic Drivers over the next 10 years	Issues on the Plains
Teens and Young Adults	New partnerships need to embrace and support local industries	Quality of Life	Energy	Different objectives due to the size of the region and the age distribution
Silver Tsunami – aging workforce	Disability / non-traditional workers need to be brought into the fold (tear down barriers to entry)	Growing area, growing businesses	Tourism, Hospitality and Recreation	High school curriculum does not create work readiness or a work ethic
ESL or migrant workers	New partnerships around social, service and transportation infrastructure	Existing collaborations and partnerships between citizens, government, business and workforce	Public Sector (Education and Government)	Lack of funding
Single parents	Partnerships that help create a relevant job skill set	Improving educational opportunities in higher ed, community colleges and technical training	Healthcare	Lack of affordable infrastructure
Transitional workers (follow the jobs; lack of roots)	Education working closely with labor market projections	Natural resources	Construction	Lack of measurable results;
Ex-Offenders			Specialty Agriculture	Drugs
			Aerospace	Boom-Bust Mentality
				Work values/ethics